

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 21 November 2014

GONSKI FUNDING FLOWS FOR NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing \$664 million in NSW public schools to help students with the greatest need.
- The funding is being distributed under the needs-based Resource Allocation Model (RAM) and it includes an additional \$97 million being delivered in 2015 as a result of the Gonski agreement.
- As a result of this package 84 per cent of NSW public schools will receive increased needs-based funding under the 2015 RAM, with 658 schools receiving an increase of more than \$50,000.
- It will be up to principals and school communities across the State to decide how best to use this funding to support their students.

G20 RECOGNISES SYDNEY AS INFRASTRUCTURE HOT-SPOT

- A decision by the world's leading nations to establish a Global Infrastructure Hub in Sydney has been described as a vote of confidence in Australia's global city by NSW Premier Mike Baird.
- G20 leaders agreed to establish the Hub in Sydney to increase global investment in infrastructure. It will coordinate the infrastructure plans and activities of governments, the private sector, banks and other organisations.
- The Global Hub is expected to unlock an additional \$2 trillion in global infrastructure capacity to 2030 and will further cement the city's reputation as the world's infrastructure capital.
- Mr Baird said the G20 has recognised how much expertise is already located in NSW as we push ahead with gigantic projects such as Barangaroo, the North West Rail Link and WestConnex.

ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS NORTH WEST RAIL LINK SITE

- Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has inspected major construction work on the North West Rail Link's Kellyville Station, where Italian-based consortium Salini Impregilo is building the \$340 million skytrain.
- NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Mike Baird and Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian hosted Mr Renzi at the site.

- The skytrain project is supporting more than 170 local jobs, with another 75 workers to be recruited as construction ramps up over the coming months.
- There are now 13 construction sites in full swing along the route, and three tunnel boring machines are digging out Australia's longest tunnels, as the NSW Government works flat-out to open the train line to customers in the first half of 2019.

NSW AGRICULTURE – PRIMED FOR FUTURE GROWTH

- The NSW Government has unveiled the highly anticipated Agriculture Industry Action Plan – a strategic roadmap to ensure the continued growth of the State's \$12 billion primary industries sector.
- The plan identifies priorities and opportunities for the industry and outlines strategies to drive innovation and cements the NSW Government's commitment to grow the sector by identifying global opportunities, including in Asia.
- This is the first time in the State's history that the Government has worked so closely with industry to develop a clear agricultural action plan that will achieve the best results for NSW producers and the economy, over the next 10 years.
- For more information or to view the Agriculture Industry Action Plan visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

SIMPLER PLANNING MEANS MORE CERTAINTY

- The NSW Government has announced a suite of improvements to how state significant development proposals are processed, speeding up the planning system and providing more certainty to communities and business.
- We have listened to communities and to industry who have highlighted their concerns about assessment delays and uncertainty.
- We expect councils to assess development applications without delay, so we should hold ourselves to the same standards. The NSW Government's commitment is to reduce the average time it takes to process state significant developments by up to 170 days.
- To rebuild NSW we need a planning system that's nimble and predictable, providing business and the community certainty about the process and timeframes.

BAYS SUMMIT A SUCCESS FOR SYDNEY

- The world's greatest minds in the field of urban regeneration converged on Sydney for a two-day summit, which examined the best ways to revitalise the area of Sydney Harbour known as The Bays Precinct.
- This area, which is four times the size of Barangaroo, has been described as an urban wasteland. We are ensuring the future of the entire area is developed through a holistic rather than a piecemeal approach.
- This summit provided an outstanding forum for Government, experts, policymakers and the community to think, hear, discuss and learn about successful large-scale urban transformation projects from around the world.

- The outcomes of the summit will now help shape the ambition and overarching principles for the transformation of this key part of Sydney Harbour.

NEW NATIVE VEGETATION CODES REFINED AND RELEASED

- The NSW Government has released three self-assessable native vegetation codes which place trust in landholders to manage their land sustainably while protecting the environment.
- We are continuing to reform native vegetation management and these codes are an important part of that process.
- The codes will cut red tape and help to make life easier for farmers to produce the food and fibre the state relies upon, and at the same time include environmental protections.
- These codes are a vital step in the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to deliver a sensible set of changes that strike the right balance between conservation and efficient agricultural management.

WORKS UNDERWAY ON NEW BYRON CENTRAL SITE

- Health Minister Jillian Skinner today said work is well underway on the site of the new Byron Central Hospital, with bulldozers paving the way for the facility which is valued at more than \$80 million.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is forging ahead with the construction of the new Byron Central Hospital after 16 years of hollow pledges under Labor.
- The project is already providing opportunities for local businesses, with locally engaged consultants on site as well as fencing, signage and civil works contractors from the Byron region.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to ensuring regional communities have access to first-class health care closer to home.

SYDNEY ANNOUNCED AS SETTLEMENT HUB FOR RENMINBI

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has welcomed the announcement from the Australian and Chinese Governments that Sydney would become an offshore settlement hub for the Chinese currency, the Renminbi.
- Central bank governors from both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding following after the announcement was made by Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey.
- The NSW Government had been a major driver behind the push for Sydney to become a Renminbi (RMB) settlement hub. Mr Baird launched the Sydney for Renminbi initiative in Shanghai earlier this year.
- This announcement reflects the growing friendship between NSW and China over the past three years. China is our number one trading partner and this development will make it easier for Australian firms to move funds and do business with China.

NSW TO BAN BUTTS IN NATIONAL PARKS

- The NSW Government will ban smoking in the State's national parks to reduce the risk of bushfires and reduce litter in national parks.
- The NSW Government is serious about reducing fire risk and littering in NSW and this move will reduce litter and help to keep communities safer.
- The ban will apply to all picnic areas, campgrounds, beaches, lookouts, walking tracks and roads within national parks.
- We have 860 national parks in NSW which protect our most beautiful and most popular natural areas. We want to make sure they are safe and healthy for everyone.

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